

**June 9, 2010**

**UTICA, NY** - Today, Governor David A. Paterson, U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer (D-NY), U.S. Rep Michael A. Arcuri (NY-24), New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (NYSEFC) President Matthew J. Driscoll, NYS Assemblywoman RoAnn Destitito (D-Rome), Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente and City of Utica Mayor David R. Roefaro joined together to announce \$30.5 million in loans and \$8 million in grants through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) to Oneida County and the City of Utica (\$4 million each) to go towards ongoing sewer infrastructure projects. Oneida and Utica will each receive \$4 million in grants and the rest will be in low interest loans.

The funding for the county will finance the first two phases of the overall project and the funding for the city will fund the first four phases. The loans are contingent on Utica and Oneida completing the necessary paper work and planning with NYSEFC.

After securing dramatic increases in federal funding for State Revolving Funds-the main vehicle for funding local sewer upgrades-Schumer and Arcuri urged the state to make these projects top priorities to receive grants and loans in an effort to spare local taxpayers the entire burden of making these needed sewer upgrades.

"This funding represents an important investment in the City of Utica and Oneida County," **Governor Paterson said**

. "For many Central New York communities, these projects would not be possible without the substantial financial assistance provided to them as principal forgiveness. I would like to thank President Obama and the New York Congressional Delegation, in particular Senator Schumer and Congressman Arcuri, for the increased Federal funding allocation for clean water infrastructure projects."

"Every nickel we secure from the federal government is one less dollar local residents will have to pay in taxes and rate hikes," **Schumer said**. "Congressman Arcuri and I were able to secure a record amount of federal money for New York State, which will see a record-breaking amount of water and sewer funding next year - much of it to be given out to localities in grants, and not loans - and Oneida County and Utica are finally starting to get their fair share. Making these investments now will create jobs, ensure long-term economic competitiveness, and provide

clean drinking water to residents."

"We have always known that Oneida County and Utica residents could not shoulder the entire cost of these necessary repairs alone," **Arcuri said**. "I would like to thank Governor Paterson for working with Senator Schumer and me to see that significant grant funding could be awarded to both projects. I was proud to support increased funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund in both the Recovery Bill and in this year's federal spending bills that has helped to make these grants possible. By improving our aging infrastructure we will be able to ensure all Upstate New York residents have access to a safe, clean water supply."

**Assemblywoman RoAnn Destito said**, "These repairs are essential, not only for the health and safety of the public and the environment, but also to encourage future growth and economic development in the Mohawk Valley region. Without these necessary improvements to the Oneida County wastewater treatment system, we will not be able to attract new businesses or encourage the expansion of our existing companies that will bring more jobs to the area. It is vitally important that we send a message to businesses that we have the facilities and infrastructure necessary in our area to accommodate their growth."

**Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente, Jr., said that the Recovery Act funding will help reduce the burden on local sewer district ratepayers.** "When I took office and I was confronted with this major issue, we took action to develop a plan and seek funding to support this essential project. This funding addresses one of the biggest, costliest projects in Oneida County, and I thank the Governor for understanding the depth of our need here. Accessing Recovery Act money for this project has been a priority of mine ever since the funding was created. I know that Congressman Arcuri has also shared that goal and worked to ensure that our needs were addressed. Implementing a solution to the sanitary sewer overflow issue is both a community development and economic development priority. This funding helps move Oneida County forward."

**Utica Mayor David Roefaro said,** "The City of Utica sewer issue demands perpetual planning, research, and cooperation because we can't keep passing this burden off on future taxpayers. Almost three years ago, I sat down with my engineering team to formulate a realistic strategy to solve this problem. I reached out to Senator Schumer, Congressman Arcuri, and Governor Paterson. Today, they have each delivered, supported our aggressive plan to solve this crisis. Like funding opportunities, this project lays out phases we must complete and build on. Our administration will continue to produce the results officials need to keep helping. The principal forgiveness savings alone will spare Utica taxpayers and propel our broader green agenda city-wide."

Schumer and Arcuri fought to dramatically increase federal funding allocations for State Revolving Funds in the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (Recovery Bill) and *Fiscal Year 2010 Interior and Environment Appropriations Act* to ensure ample funding was available for these and other clean water infrastructure projects across the state. The Interior Appropriations Bill included \$2.1 billion, of which New York State received \$227 million, and the Recovery Bill included \$4 billion, of which the state received \$432.5 million. Additionally, much of this funding will be made available through the CWSRF as grants, instead of loans, directing more than \$328 million in grants to communities throughout New York State as principal forgiveness to offset construction and lending expenses. New York's CWSRF is administered by NYSEFC.

**New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation President and CEO Matthew Driscoll said,** "For 40 years, the Corporation has provided low-cost financing to communities across our State to construct vital water infrastructure projects. Undoubtedly, principal forgiveness will provide significant financial relief to communities in need of urgent and costly sewer infrastructure repairs. I would like to thank Governor Paterson and New York's Congressional Delegation for including this important funding and grant provision in the 2010 Federal Budget."

In February of 2007, Oneida County was ordered by the state to immediately fix its sewer systems because particularly wet weather causes the system to overflow and discharge untreated sewage in the Mohawk River. In order to avoid fines, the Oneida County Sewer District entered into a consent order with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to improve its system by 2014. This will entail rehabilitating the sanitary

sewer collection system, and upgrading the Sauquoit Creek Pumping Station, forcemain, and water pollution control plant at an estimated cost of \$183.5 million.

Additionally, the City of Utica has a combined sewer designed to collect domestic sanitary sewage, industrial wastes, infiltration from groundwater, and stormwater runoff in a single system of pipes. Combined sewer overflow (CSO) permits can be issued by the NYSDEC, pursuant to an approved "dumping" strategy for CSO events, but Utica is still discharging in excess of the permitted amount. The City is working to separate its storm-water and sanitary sewer systems at an estimated cost of \$164.6 million.

In February of 2010, at Arcuri's request, a team of NYSEFC experts led by President Driscoll hosted a workshop in Marcy to walk local officials through the process of applying for funding under New York's CWSRF. Both projects were eligible to apply for funding because of their position on NYSEFC's 2010 Intended Use Plan, which prioritizes water infrastructure projects across the state based on a federally set formula.

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